

ASHBOURNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

W.J.MORRISSEY M.B., D.P.H.

and the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

D.POWELL M.I. Mun.E.

for the

YEAR 1953



ASHBOURNE URBAN DISTRICT

1953

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor	W.B. Newton - Chairman
"	J.E. Adkin
"	H. Mc. N. Callow
"	S. Cox
"	F. J. Edge
"	C. F. McGuinness
"	N. Moore
"	S. Pearson
"	J. L. Peel
"	W. Preston
"	G. Rose
"	W. Spencer
"	R. Unwin

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officers of Health

Dr. W.J. Morrissey M.B., D.P.H. (as from 1.6.53).

Dr. H.R. Hollick M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (to 31.5.53).

Chief Sanitary Inspector - Cleansing Superintendent:

D. Powell M.I. Mun. E.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

P.W. Thornley A.M.I., Mun.E.

General Clerk

K. Wint

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ashbourne Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the health, vital statistics and activities of the Health Department for the year ended 31st December, 1953.

The birth rate has increased from 13.6 to 18.1 and the death rate from 10.5 to 19.2 as compared to 1952.

There were 3 infant deaths under 1 year as compared with none in 1952.

With the exception of the measles outbreak in the spring and the whooping cough in the autumn there was very little notifiable infectious disease.

One satisfactory feature has been the increase of primary diptheria immunisations from 33 to 79 at a time when the immunisation rate throughout the County is tending to decline. Now that diptheria is infrequently met, parents are tending to fail to realise the necessity to have their children immunised. Unless the level of immunisation is kept up, diptheria will return.

Food poisoning and dysentery have received much publicity of recent years. These diseases which are clearly preventable, cause much minor illness and loss of work. It is a tribute to the food handlers and caterers of the district that the incidence has been so low. Besides the professional food handler however, the individual must play his part in the prevention of food born diseases and the most important thing for him to remember to wash his hands after using the toilet before handling or preparing food. The schools are playing their part inculcating good hygienic habits in the children but this must be supplemented by example and training in the home.

During the year the Government presented to Parliament their proposals covering the general housing policy for the Country, including a slum clearance programme and an incentive scheme to assist land lords to keep their properties in a good state of repair. This district considering its size and population has a most excellent housing record, both before and after the war. It is now clearly the Government's intention that Local Authorities should recommence slum clearance as soon as possible and it is hoped that this programme will be carried through in the interest of Public Health as well as the public conscience.

I wish to pay tribute to my predecessor Dr. H. Hollick who died in October 1953. He served the district well for many years both as Medical Officer of Health and in a large private practise.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and the Clerk and other Officers for their friendly co-operation.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. J. MORRISSEY.
M.B., D.F.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area of District (in acres)	1,075
Extended population (Registrar General)	5,226
Number of inhabited houses (estimated)	1,898
Rateable Value	£36,958
Product of a penny rate	£145
Total debt for all purposes 31.3.54	£606,193. 4. 4
" " " housing only 31.3.54	£560,516. 4. 0

New houses erected during 1953

(a) Council 63

(b) Private 4

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total	42	52	94
Legitimate	42	49	91
Illegitimate	-	3	

Birth Rate per 1,000 population	18.08
England and Wales	15.5

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	-	2
Illegitimate	-	1
Totals	-	3

Rate of Still Births per 1,000 population 0.60

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Deaths of Infants under one year		
Total	2	1
" " " under 4 weeks	1	1

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	31.91
England and Wales	26.8

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total Deaths all ages	56	44	100

Death Rate per 1,000 population = 19.21
England and Wales = 11.4

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Removed to Hospital</u>
Measles	129	Nil
Whooping Cough	50	"
Pneumonia	5	"
Scarlet Fever	Nil	"
Diphtheria	Nil	"
Erysipelas	5	"
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	1
Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil
TOTALS	191	2

There were no notifications of Enteric Typhoid,
Para-Typhoid, Poliomyelitis, Meningococcal Infection
or Dysentery.

Cases of Notifiable Disease at varying ages during 1953.

	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	60-	60+
Measles		3	10	17	18	21	57	2	1	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough		7	3	10	5	8	17	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia		-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	1
Erysipelas		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Puerperal Pyrexia		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Pulmonary T.B.		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Totals		10	13	27	23	29	74	3	1	2	-	3	6

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS

<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-	1
Tuberculosis, other			
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, lungs, bronchus	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	8	1	9
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1	1
Diabetes	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	17	9	26
Coronary disease, angina	5	5	10
Hypertension with heart disease	1	-	1
Other heart disease	8	4	12
Other circulatory disease	2	13	15
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	2	-	2
Bronchitis	2	-	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	-	3
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	-	-	-
Nephritis & nephrosis	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Pregnancy, child birth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	-	-
Other defined & ill-defined causes	4	7	11
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
All other accidents	1	-	1
Suicide	-	-	-
Homicide	-	-	-
TOTALS	56	43	99

National Health Service Act 1946

Immunisation against Diptheria

Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	Total
6	46	11	3	2	6	5	79

National Assistance Act 1944

No cases requiring action under Section 47 arose during the year.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
YEAR 1953.

The Area of the District is 1075 acres land and water: and the number of inhabited houses at the end of the year was 1,873.

HOUSING

Continued progress was made in the erection of houses on the Council's Park Land Housing Estate. Fifty-five three bedroom type houses, and eight two bedroom type flats were completed and occupied during the year. The Council proceeded to negotiate for the acquisition of further adjacent land for housing purposes.

Four new houses were completed during the year, by private enterprise.

Five licences for the erection of new houses by private enterprise were issued during the year.

The Council continued to allocate houses on a points basis, and a review of housing applications resulted in the removal from the waiting list of a considerable number of applications.

WATER SUPPLY

The average daily consumption of water during the year was 219,237 gallons, which is equivalent to 39.17 gallons per head per day.

No additional water mains have been laid during the year. Change over from diesel engine pumping to electrically powered submersible pumps has now been completed.

Water is obtained from the same source as in previous years. The result of chemical analysis and bacteriological examination has shown the water to be of satisfactory quality for drinking purposes.

The whole of the supply of water is softened by the Base Exchange process, and the plant has continued to operate satisfactorily.

Rainfall recorded during the year was 24.24 inches, as compared with 31.03 inches for the previous year.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

No additions or extensions have been carried out at the Sewage Disposal Works during the year.

The average daily engine hours pumping at the Works during the year was 15.2 hours, and the average quantity of sewage pumped and treated per day was 247,094 gallons.

A short length of sewer has been extended in North Avenue, Ashbourne, to serve newly erected dwelling houses on the west side.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Council continue to collect house refuse weekly from all properties in the District, and this is disposed of in a Meldrum Refuse Destructor, and by controlled tipping.

LEGISLATION

No Local Acts, Special Orders, or Adoption Acts came into force during the year.

Revised Building Byelaws made under the Public Health Act, 1936, were prepared by the Council, and these were to supersede the previous Byelaws on the 1st February 1954.

MEAT INSPECTION

Two slaughterhouses continue to be used by the Ministry of Food for the slaughter of animals required in Ashbourne and District.

Carcases are regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, and condemnation notes issued for meat found to be of unsatisfactory quality for human consumption.

Details as to carcasses inspected and condemned during the year are as follows :-

	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number Killed	897	525	3,659	1,060	6,141
Number Inspected	897	525	3,659	1,060	6,141

All Diseases except T.B.

	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Whole Carcasses condemned.	3 1,476lbs	82 2,283 lbs.	-	2 271 lbs.
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned.	79 702 lbs	9 283 lbs	41 1,359 lbs.	8 101 lbs.
% of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	9.1%	17.3%	1.1%	9.4%

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses condemned	4 1,900 lbs.	-	-	--
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned.	10 214 lbs.	-	-	6 40 lbs.

FOOD INSPECTION.

During the year quantities of tinned food have been inspected at the various food premises in the district, and condemnation notes issued for any unsound food.

Condemnation notes were issued during the year in respect of the following food:-

6lbs. Apricots	12 ¹ / ₂ lbs. Beans
42 ¹ / ₂ lbs. Apricot pulp	16 ³ / ₄ lbs. Cherries
56lbs. Butter	48 dozen Eggs.
18lbs. Beef suet	13 ¹ / ₂ lbs. Carrots
30 ¹ / ₂ lbs. Damsons	40 lbs. Fruit Salad.
41lbs. Grapefruit	60lbs. Currants
1lb. Red Cabbage	30 pints Condensed Milk.
¹ / ₂ lb. Sterilised Cream	14 pints Skimmed Milk.
29 ¹ / ₂ lbs. Corned Beef	3lbs. Steak.
25 ³ / ₄ lbs. Strawberries.	3lbs. Salmon.
153 ¹ / ₂ lbs. Sardines	61lbs. Sausages
96lbs. Pineapples	18 ¹ / ₂ lbs. Peas
9 ¹ / ₂ lbs. Pilchards	7 ¹ / ₂ lbs. Luncheon Meat
2lbs. Onions	2lbs. Mincemeat

11b. Marmalade.	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Minced Beef-Loaf
11b. Raspberry Jam	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. Raspberries
4 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Pork	16lbs. Chopped Ham
11b. Lobsters	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. Rhubarb
15lbs. Jellied Veal	11b. Cheese Spread
46lbs. Plums	1142 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Ham
20lbs. Pears	32lbs. Peach Slices

Total of 2,063 lbs. Tinned Food.

44 Pints Milk.

48 Dozen Eggs.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No further work has been carried out in connection with Flood Alleviation, and the Flood Alleviation Scheme previously carried out has proved to be satisfactory in times of heavy rainfall.

DAIRIES: COW-SHEDS AND MILK SHOPS

Inspections of premises have been regularly carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, and notices served where required.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

The Sanitary Inspector has received various notices from H.M. Inspector of Factories, in connection with Factories and Bakehouses etc. Complaints have been investigated and necessary notices served. Lists of outworkers have been submitted in accordance with the requirements of the Factories Act, 1937.

